

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5079

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, MMOL, PEPR, OAS, AR, US
SUBJECT FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5032

1. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS BRIEFING JUNE 29 FOR PRESIDENT VIDELA ON THE RESULTS OF THE OASGA, FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH TOUCHED ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO US:

A. IAHRC INVITATION. ACCORDING TO LA NACION'S ACCOUNT, MONTES STATED THAT IN RESPONSE TO ARGENTINA'S INVITATION, THE IAHRC HAD SUBMITTED A REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION REGARDING CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE INVITATION AND THE GOA WAS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF STUDYING ITS REPLY. OTHER PAPERS REPORTED A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT VERSION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE IAHRC WAS STILL STUDYING THE GOA INVITATION.

B. CARTER SPEECH. ASKED AGAIN FOR HIS OPINION ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADDRESS BEFORE THE OASGA, MONTES EXPRESSED, AS HE HAD THE DAY BEFORE, REGRETS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT MENTIONED THE MALVINAS ISLANDS PROBLEM.

C. ARGENTINE-U.S.RELATIONS. ASKED BY A REPORTER WHETHER ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS WITH U.S. WAS RELATED TO GOA AMBIGUITY ABOUT SETTING A DATE FOR A RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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MONTES REJECTED THE REPORTER'S INTERPRETATION OF THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE U.S. ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZING THAT THERE WERE SOME PASSING PROBLEMS AT THE CURRENT MOMENT, MONTES SAID THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE GOOD, JUST AS THEY TRADITIONALLY HAVE BEEN. HE THEN WENT ON WITH THE GOA STOCK ANSWER ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S HAVING OBJECTIVES AND NOT COMPLETION DATES.

D. LIST OF DEAD AND DISAPPEARED. MONTES SAID HE COULD NOT ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE PROSPECT OF A GOA LIST OF DEAD AND DISAPPEARED AS THIS WAS NOT A MATTER WITHIN HIS AREA OF JURISDICTION. (SEE SEPTTEL).

2. COMMENT: WE ARE RELIEVED BY MONTES' RESERVE IN RESPONDING TO POINTS 1 (A) AND (C) ABOVE. SO FAR SO GOOD. CASTRO

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